

U.S. Military Academy - Officer's Quarters  
(Superintendent's Quarters)  
Jefferson Road, south of Quarters 101,  
northwest side of Parade Ground  
U.S. Military Academy  
West Point  
Orange County  
New York

HABS No. NY-5708-1

HABS  
NY  
36-WEPO,  
1/1-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, DC 20013-7127

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
U.S. MILITARY ACADEMY - OFFICER'S QUARTERS  
(SUPERINTENDENT'S QUARTERS)

LOCATION: Jefferson Road, south of Quarters 101, northwest side of  
Parade Ground, U.S. Military Academy, West Point, Orange  
County, New York.

USGS West Point Quadrangle, Universal Transvers Mercator  
Coordinates: 18.586960.4582700.

PRESENT OWNER  
AND OCCUPANT: U.S. Military Academy, Department of the Army.

PRESENT USE: Single family housing for the Superintendent.

SIGNIFICANCE: This set of quarters is the oldest extant building at the  
Academy. The house retains much of its original Federal Style  
details and has been the quarters of the academy superintendent  
since its construction.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1820.
2. Architect: Unknown. Presumably the Army Quartermaster's office.
3. Original and subsequent owners: U.S. Military Academy,  
Department of the Army.
4. Builder: Unknown. Presumably the post Quartermaster's office.
5. Original plans and construction: Appropriations for the year 1819  
allocated \$5,000 for the Superintendent's quarters. At the same  
time, \$15,600 was allocated for three houses for professors and  
teachers ("Estimate of Appropriations Required for the United States  
Military Academy at West Point for the Year 1819" U.S.M.A. Archives.  
Cited in Grashof). The actual cost of the building is recorded  
to be \$6,670.00 (Williams Facilities Report). A drawing from 1842,  
sent by Superintendent Delafield from West Point to Washington, D.C.  
depicts the building's original plan (see supplemental material for  
sketch plan). This plan and its additions are confirmed by  
Williams' Facilities Report of 1889:

"Quarters No. 23. Brick building, two stories high, erected in  
in 1820 at a cost of \$6670.00. Entrance is gained by means of a  
veranda extending along the entire front and part of both sides  
of the building, and a large hall from which all rooms on the  
first floor opens. It is occupied by the Superintendent of the  
Military Academy, and contains rooms as follows:

1st floor: Front parlor, 17 ft. 6 in. x 19 ft. x 11 ft.; back parlor, 17 ft. 6 in. x 13 ft. 6 in. x 11 ft.; dining room, 15 ft. 6 in. x 20 ft. x 11 ft.; sitting room, 18 ft. x 14 ft. x 11 ft.; office, 18 ft. x 20 ft. x 11 ft.; butler's pantry, 10 ft. x 9 ft. x 11 ft.; servants' water closet, 8 ft. x 11 ft. x 11 ft.; kitchen, 17 ft. 6 in. x 17 ft. 6 in. x 10 ft.

2nd floor: 2 bedrooms, each 18 ft. x 12 ft. 6 in. x 10 ft.; 1 bedroom, 17 ft. 6 in. x 15 ft. 6 in. x 10 ft.; 1 bedroom, 17 ft. 6 in. x 18 ft. 6 in. x 10 ft.; 1 bedroom, 13 ft. 6 in. x 14 ft. x 10 ft.; 1 bedroom, 13 ft. 6 in. x 11 ft. 6 in. x 10 ft.; 1 bathroom, 9 ft. 6 in. x 8 ft. 6 in. x 10 ft.; 1 bathroom, 11 ft. x 9 ft. 6 in. x 10 ft.; 1 water closet, 6 ft. x 3 ft. 6 in. x 10 ft.; 1 sewing room, 10 ft. 6 in. x 7 ft. 6 in. x 10 ft.

Attic: 2 bedrooms, each 17 ft. 6 in. x 13 ft. x 8 ft.

Basement: Laundry, 15 ft. 6 in. x 20 ft. x 7 ft.; 2 storerooms, each 17 ft. 6 in. x 13 ft. 6 in. x 7 ft.; 2 storerooms, each 17 ft. 6 in. x 19 ft. x 7 ft."

6. Alterations and additions: Bethanie C. Grashof's Building Analyses and Preservation Guidelines gives a schematic development plan and this chronological key to additions (see Supplemental Material):

"A Original Building  
1820

source: Record Series #280  
Post Facilities Report, 1889. Submitted by Captain Charles W. Williams. Sometimes called Letterbook. (Hereafter cited as Williams, Facilities Report).  
USMA Archives

B Front porch  
ca. 1855 - ca. 1870  
source: photo-- PL 100-a  
photo-- PL 100-b

B' Side Porches  
ca. 1874-1882  
source: photo- PL 100-c  
photo- PL 100-d

C Two-story brick addition with gabled room -- included on octagonal bay on west elevation.  
late 1860s-1877  
source: photo-- PL 100-c  
map-- 1877-8, Reed  
USMA Special Collections

- D Conservatory  
ca 1870-1873  
source: photo--- PL 100-b  
photo--- in 1873 Class Album  
USMA Special Collection
- D' Rusticated brick bay  
1896 - 1904 (first floor)  
source: photo-- A. Wittemann, U.S. Military Academy, West Point, N.Y., Photo-Gravuers, (New York: The Arber type Co., 1896).  
USMA Special Collection  
photo-- Stockbridge Collection, neg. #833  
USMA Archives
- 1912-1916 (Second floor)  
source: photo- QUARTERS 100 SCRAPBOOK  
photo- Photographic Files - Superintendent's Quarters  
USMA Archives  
(PL 100-f and PL 100-g show this bay in its two stages)
- E Two-story brick addition with shed roof  
ca. 1867-1877  
source: map-- 1867, Boynton  
USMA Special Collections  
map-- 1877, Reed  
USMA Special Collections
- F Single-story brick link  
ca. 1867-1877  
source: map-- 1867, Boynton  
USMA Special Collections  
map-- 1877, Reed  
USMA Special Collections
- Single-story sleeping porch  
1828-1931  
source: photo--- PL 100-h  
photo--- Photographic Files - Superintendent's Quarters  
USMA Archives
- G Single-story back addition  
1889-1903  
source: Williams, Facilities Report. Space not accounted for in building by building description.  
map-- West Point, 1903  
USMA Special Collections

H Greenhouse  
1889-1903

source: Williams, Facilities Report. Space not  
accounted for in building by building  
description.

map-- West Point, 1903  
USMA Special Collections"

The following list of alterations are confined to the original part of the house (A). Certain alterations can be dated through photographs and drawings. A photographic scrapbook compiled by the U.S.M.A. Special Collections staff documents the house from the 1850s - 1960s. Original drawings are not known to exist but drawings in the Facilities Engineer's office of the Directorate of Housing, U.S.M.A. document changes from the 1930s to the present. See supplemental material for notes regarding alterations seen in the scrapbook photographs.

Alterations documented through drawings include the construction of the north and south gates, 1936; placement of cannons in the front, 1936; garage by 1937; removal of wood fences and their replacement, 1943; two additional steps added to main stairs for "Inclinitor," 1944; bookcases added to second floor room, clothes press altered, 1945; new fireplace mantel for second floor bedroom, 1951; six rooms in basement restored, including a new 12" stone wall and a new entrance, 1953; and new bookcases in music room, 1953. Extensive alterations occurred in the 1960s. Basement: new doorways cut and created. First Floor: the replacement of wooden lath and plaster with metal lath and plaster; new plaster wainscot; the replacement of most window sash; the change from exterior door to window in the parlor and living room; and new wooden baseboards. Second Floor: new plaster; new baseboards; the alteration of a hall window; and new oak floors over the existing. Third Floor: ceiling framing rebuilt; plaster and lath removed from the northwest storage room.

- B. Historical Context: The Superintendent's Quarters have housed academy superintendents since Sylvanus Thayer in the 1920s. The basement of the quarters also served as the superintendent's office, along with his adjutant and orderly. These rooms were restored in 1961-64. For an overview of the historical context of these quarters and the academy, see U.S. Military Academy, HABS No. NY-5708, Volume 2: "West Point: An Overview of the History and Physical Development of the United States Military Academy."

## PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

### A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: Quarters 100 is the oldest surviving building at West Point. Although altered to various extents,

the exterior and interior represent a Federal style of design.

2. Condition of the fabric: The building is in excellent condition.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: The 48' x 37' original building was extended with a number of additions (see supplemental material), increasing its length to 105', excluding the front porch. Triple windows give the facade a three bay first floor while the second floor has five bays. The building has a basement and two-and-a-half full floors.
2. Walls: The brick walls, painted white, are characteristically bare and without ornament.
3. Structural systems: The building is constructed of load-bearing brick walls with wooden floor joists and a common rafter wooden roof.
4. Porches: The principal porch is one that was added to the facade after the Civil War and extended in the 1930s by Paul P. Cret. This ornate cast iron porch, approximately 10' wide, has a metal roof covering, cresting, and a hung gutter. The extension was made to match the original.
5. Chimneys: The earliest part of the house features four, end wall, nonprojecting chimneys whose stacks are situated to either side of the ridge, two on each gable end. These rebuilt stacks have arched opening caps. There is another chimney stack that serves a fireplace in the dining room addition from the 1860s-1877 period.
6. Openings:
  - a. Doorway and doors: The principal facade doorway is Federal in style and composed of an elliptical arched opening within which is a fanlight, four wooden pilasters with bases and entablatures, and sidelights. The arch (stone?) has a decorative keystone and impost blocks. The fanlight window design is made of lead comes. Cast iron grilles have been placed over the sidelights. The panelled door is obscured by a partially glazed storm door.

The south door off of the porch is turn-of-the-century and features an elliptical fanlight, sidelights and two glass doors. The opposite north doorway has a simple rectangular transom window and sidelights and a door with solid panels. There is also a partially glazed storm door on this door. Less significant doors are: glass doors on the south side of the conservatory; glass doors with a fanlight and sidelights on the west side of the conservatory; a solid kitchen door on the west; and a partially glazed halldoor on the north.

- b. Windows: On the facade triple windows (6/6, 8/8, 6/6) light the living room and parlor on each side of the central hall. Six-over-six light double-hung sash are the rule, with some 8-over-8 and 4-over-4 being the most frequent exceptions. Louvered shutters are found on practically every window. Most windows have a painted lintel (stone?)

8. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: Until 1938 the additions to the west all had separate gable roofs. After that date the additions were covered under one gable roof perpendicular to the original roof. The roof is covered with slate.
- b. Cornice: A hung gutter above metal brackets extends across the front of the building. There is no cornice.
- c. Dormers: Dormers were added to the new west roof in the 1930s.

C. Description of Interior:

- 1. Floor plans: Basement: In 1953 six rooms in the original portion of the basement were restored to their appearance as the Superintendent's Office and opened to the public as a museum. The present plan is close to that seen in the 1842 plan by Delafield. Other rooms in the extended area are now used for storage, laundry and service for the kitchen. First floor: The original section of the house, seen in the 1842 plan, has been altered to that of one large living room on the north where formerly two rooms had been. The two southern rooms remain as parlor and music rooms, although the doorway between them has been altered. The music room, extended to the south, opens west to the dining room and beyond that to the sun porch or "conservatory." West of the living room is a north-south hall, two dressing rooms, a pantry, kitchen, staircase and toilets. Second floor: The original plan of the second floor is intact, containing three bedrooms, two bathrooms and a study, all around a central stair hall. West of this original part the hall was extended, providing access to two large bedrooms, three bathrooms, a dressing room, linen storage and a service stair. Third floor: In the original area the plan was altered by the raising of the later roof over the western additions. The northeast room retains its original size but the southeast room has been divided to include a bathroom. West of the northeast bedroom and all across the east of the building is an area for storage. The southwest storage area has been enlarged for use as a bedroom. The remainder of the third floor to the west is taken up by a central hall, three bedrooms, two bathrooms and a service stair.
- 2. Stairways: The principal stairway remains in its central hall location and appears to be unaltered except for the replacement of treads (1-3 floors) in 1938 and the removal of an intermediate landing and the addition of steps in its place. The straight flight wooden stairs and balustrade have a turned wooden newel post at the

bottom. Each end has a carved foliage design. The other stairway in the building is a dog-leg service stair in the ca. 1867-1877 addition. This service stair serves the basement through third floors.

3. Flooring: Basement: With the exception of the entrance passage and the six restored rooms, whose floors are brick in a herringbone pattern, the basement floors are concrete. First Floor: Hardwood floors are found throughout this floor except for the sun porch with its quarrytile floor. Photographs from 1918 show a parquay floor in the parlor that is not shown in a 1947 photograph. Second Floor: Floors are hardwood in the old section (oak floors put over existing wood floors in 1960) and carpeting in some newer bedrooms. Third Floor: Original hardwood floors survive in the storage area across the east of the building and in the original northwest storage room.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: First floor rooms in the oldest section have wooden baseboards and cornices and plaster walls and ceilings. Photographs taken in 1918 show wallpaper in the living room, parlor and music room. The cornice in the entrance hall is larger than that in the flanking rooms. The hall has a wooden wainscot and chairrail. A plaster ceiling molding is also found in these rooms and a plaster medallion is found in the music room and the dining room. The latter two rooms have wall, ceiling and opening trim that is later in period than the other rooms.
5. Openings:
  - a. Doorways and doors: Door trim for the early part of the house is Federal in style with cyma reversa moldings and corner blocks. The most elaborate doorways are the wooden stairhall arch in the central hall and the heavy "rope molding" Victorian arch with panelled pocket doors in the music room. Between the dining room and the sun porch a former bay window was turned into French doors with flanking windows of square glass panels. These twelve molded and etched glass panels depicting flora and fauna are by Harriton and are reused from the New York World's Fair of 1939. Another set of these panels is installed in the East Academic Building (HABS No. NY-5708-29).
  - b. Windows: Window trim of note follows that of the door trim noted above.
6. Decorative features and trim: The parlor and the living room of the first floor have Federal style marble mantels while the dining room and the northeast bedroom of the second floor have Victorian style mantels. The southeast and north central bedroom of the second floor have simple wooden mantels which might be original to the house.
7. Mechanical equipment:
  - a. Heating: Heat is by steam radiator. Drawings indicate that the system was altered in some way in 1943.



- b. Lighting: There are no lighting fixtures original to the building. Photographs from 1918 show gas-o-lier chandeliers and wall sconces. Different wall sconces appear in 1947 photographs. The chandelier in the dining room, installed in 1966, was from the Suite Militaire in the Hotel Astor, New York City (Marie Capps, "Quarters 100 Scrapbook," Special Collections).

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: Quarters 100 faces east toward Jefferson Road and the parade ground. To the south is Washington Hall/MacArthur Barracks (HABS No. NY-5708-44); to the west the Gymnasium (HABS No. NY-5708-43); and to the north the Commandant's Quarters (HABS No. NY-5708-2). The building sits to the north of a large landscaped yard. Small shrubs are planted near the house on all sides while large trees and flower gardens are interspersed and at the periphery of the lot.
2. Historic landscape design: Photographic documentation (Capps, "Scrapbook") indicates that the 1849 iron fence that can be seen in a ca. 1870 photograph was gone by the time a photograph was taken in 1906. A 1904 photograph includes a view of the hill to the west of the quarters which later became a quarry and then the site of the gymnasium. The two six pound cannon, mounted in front of the quarters, are documented as coming from the Watervliet Arsenal in 1932. One of these is identified by "French Royal Crown" and the other "Made in Strasbourg by J. Berengen, 1758" (Capps, "Scrapbook"). Drawings in the Directorate of Engineering and Housing U.S.M.A. were made for proposed brick walls around the lot in 1933, 1936 and 1938. The latter drawings are notated "Old wooden fences to be removed" and "cannon balls to be obtained from Ordnance." A 1926 photograph (Capps, "Scrapbook") shows a brick wall under construction.
3. Outbuildings: There are four buldings associated with the quarters, all to the west or northwest: two garages (U.S.M.A. 723 and 725), a storage building (U.S.M.A. 725-A) and a lattice garden structure. One garage (723) was erected prior to 1937 and might be the former stables; the stone storage building is presumably nineteenth century.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- A. Architectural Drawings: Twentieth-century drawings (primarily from the 1930s) are in the Facilities Engineer's Office in the Directorate of Engineering and Housing, U.S. Military Academy. A plan by Richard Delafield from 1842, the earliest known drawing, is at the National Archives, fortification File, Record Group 77.
- B. Early views: For good early views of the quarters, consult the "Scrapbook" compiled by Marie Capps at the Archives and Special Collections, U.S. Military Academy. Some of these photographs are reproduced in the Lange and Grashof volumes of this project.

C. Bibliography

1. Primary and unpublished sources: Records, U.S. Military Academy Archives and Special Collections. See bibliographic essay in the Lange volume of this project for a listing of record groups.

Captain Charles W. Williams, "Post Facilities Report," 1889.  
U.S. Military Academy Archives.

"Scrapbook, Quarters 100," compiled by Marie Capps.  
U.S. Military Academy Archives and Special Collections.

2. Secondary and published sources: Bethanie C. Grashof, "Building Analysis and Preservation Guidelines for Category I and Selected Category II Buildings at the United States Military Academy, West Point, New York," Historic American Buildings Survey, 1983. HABS No. NY-5708.

Robie S. Lange, "West Point: An Overview of the History and Physical Development of the United States Military Academy," Historic American Buildings Survey, 1983. HABS No. NY-5708.  
Annual Reports, U.S. Military Academy Archives.

- D. Likely Sources Not Yet Investigated: A more thorough investigation of the U.S. Military Academy Archives and Special Collections might yield more information. The National Archives in Washington, D.C. is also a likely source for additional information.

E. Supplemental Material

1. Travis C. McDonald, Jr. Notes from Quarter 100 "Scrapbook."
2. Quarters 100, 1842 plan.
3. Quarters 100, schematic plan.

E. Supplemental Material

1. Superintendents' Quarters 100 - Scrapbook  
Volume 1 - Exterior  
U.S. Military Academy - Special Collections Staff

Notes from the Quarters 100 Scrapbook  
in the U.S. Military Academy Special Collections  
Travis C. McDonald

- 1870 Col. and Mrs. Thomas G. Pitcher on porch  
Bulkhead on north  
Iron fence (installed 1849)  
Porch (added post Civil War)  
Lintels and sills not painted
- N.D. Conservatory (frame) on south and 2 story addition on  
west (dining room and ground level kitchen)  
Lintels and sills painted dark
- N.D. Extension of porch (north window into door)  
Lattice under porch
- 1904 South elevation - Conservatory rebuilt in brick  
(rusticated treatment)  
Larger conservatory attached to west  
Window added to 2nd story, south side  
"Conservatory" on south has awning - not used as  
Conservatory.  
Brackets added to original modillion cornice.  
Hill behind house - became quarry (gym site)  
Northeast (windows - 1st and 2nd floors have been altered  
to 2/2 double hung sash - attic windows 4/4, altered from 6/6)  
North - 2nd floor center window shutters  
Shutters removed 1st floor under porch  
Window change appears facade only

- 1906 East elevation - iron fence removed (screen door gone) between frame conservatory period and its replacement in brick
- Second story round-headed window added to east of existing round-headed window
- 1911 South elevation - 2nd floor windows - original one still 6/6 - arched window 7/6; new window appears 2/2; attic still 6/6
- 1926 South side addition - raised to 2nd floor - wiping out arched windows
- Brick garden wall being constructed
- Metal canopy over addition entry?
- 1936 Additional windows added to 1st floor, east elevation
- Door shown on north - created from original windws
- Additional windows on 1st and 2nd floors to west of door and window respectively. 6/6 - 2nd floor original window on north - same for addition
- ca 1930s All exterior shutters removed, probably for repairs or painting
- Wood trim of porch screened-in
- Screens all windows
- Dormers added on addition to rear
- Brick addition to west
- 1938 Renovation: porch extended, addition to west changed (?)
- Post 1938 Shutters painted red
- 1960 1930s - 1940s - Brick painted white - Shutters black
- 2nd floor central: shutters on sidelights
- 1963 Shutters green (or black?) - iron black
- Windows - 1st floor facade - back to 6/6 and 8/8 central [still 2/2 1947])
- 1981 Shutters gray - ironwork gray

Scrapbook - Volume 2: Interior

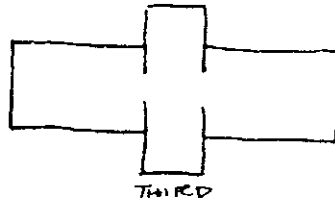
1918      Living Room and Music Room (west)  
  
         Parquay floors  
  
         Victorian gas-o-liers (combination at any rate)  
  
         Same type wall sconces  
  
         Plaster ceiling medallion in Music Room  
  
         Wallpaper - Living Room and Music Room  
  
         Pocket door- Living Room - Music Room  
  
1947      Living Room (east)  
  
         2/2 windows  
  
         Wallpaper  
  
         No parquay floor  
  
         Different sconces  
  
1947      Living Room (west)  
  
         No parquay floor  
  
         Pocket doors  
  
By 1963   Pocket doors covered up  
  
         Plaster medallion in Music Room  
  
1963      Renovation? - Interior walls stripped  
  
1968      Living Room  
  
         Plaster wall again  
  
         Door changed to window

E. Supplemental Material

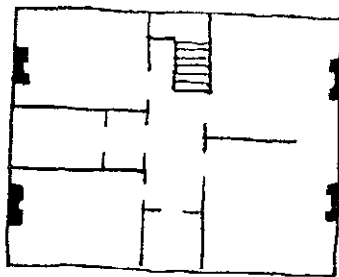
2. Quarters 100, 1842 Plan

Superintendent's Quarters H.A.B.S. NY-5708-1  
Original Plan

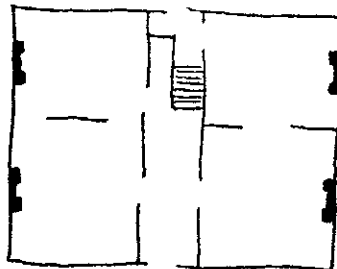
"Plan of all the quarters at West Point occupied by the officers and professors of the Military Academy in Feb. 1842.- forwarded with the letter of the 10 Feb. 1842 by Richard Delafield, Major of the Engineers, Superintendent of the Military Academy."



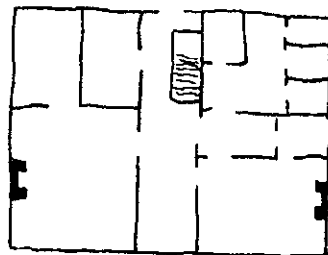
THIRD



SECOND



FIRST

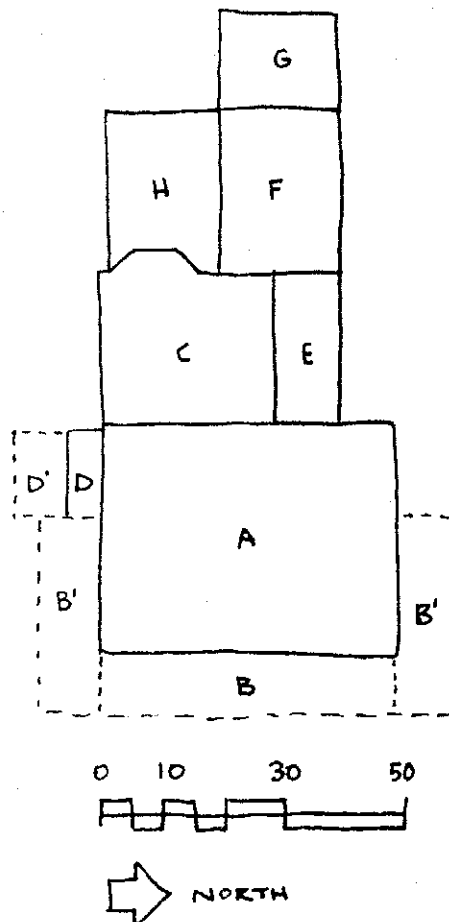


BASEMENT

Drawer 32, Sheet 25 Fortifications File, U.S. Military Academy West Point, (NY) Record Group 77-- Records of the Office of the Chief of Engineers, Cartographic and Architectural Branch of the National Archives, Washington, D.C.

E. Supplemental Material

3. Quarters 100, Schematic Plan



Officer's Quarters  
Superintendent's Quarters  
H.A.B.S. NY-5708-1

Schematic Plan  
Prior to 1938

Bethanie C. Grashof

PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

This documentation is part of a multi-year project sponsored by the National Park Service and the United States Military Academy, explained in the United States Military Academy, HABS No. NY-5708, Volume 1, "Methodology." This written documentation was prepared by Travis C. McDonald, Jr., architectural historian, in 1982-1985 based on fieldwork conducted in 1982.



ADDENDUM TO

UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY, OFFICER'S QUARTERS

(UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY, SUPERINTENDENT'S QUARTERS)

(UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY, BUILDING NO. 100)

West Point

Orange County

New York

HABS No. NY-5708-1

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*36-WEPO,*

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XEROGRAPHIC COPIES OF COLOR TRANSPARENCIES

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

National Park Service

U.S. Department of the Interior

Washington, D.C. 20013